

REMARKS

Claims 8-11, 19, 27, 28, and 31 are canceled. Claims 1, 12, and 14-16 are amended. Claims 1-7, 12-18, 20-26, 29, and 30 remain in the application.

Claims 1-7, 10, 15, and 16 are rejected for anticipation by US Patent 6557031. The rejection is moot in view of the amendment of claim 1.

Claim 17 is rejected for obviousness over US Patent 6557031 in view of US Patent 6141788. The rejection is moot in view of the amendment of claim 1.

Objection is made to claims 11-14 and 18 for being dependent on a rejected base claim, with the representation that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 is amended by incorporation of the limitations of claims 10 and 11. Claim 1 therefore corresponds to claim 11 rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 is therefore allowable according to the statement at paragraph 6, page 7 of the Office Action, as are claims 2-7 and 12-18 which depend from claim 1.

Claims 20-26, 29, and 30 are allowed.

All of the claims in this application are either allowable or allowed. The application is therefore in condition for allowance, early notice of which is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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